WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An information processing system, comprising:

a camera for capturing an image of controllable equipment;

a server coupled to the camera and to a data network;

an apparatus for receiving the image from the server via the network and comprising:

a display monitor for displaying the image; and

a control interface that associates the image with a command for control of the controllable

equipment upon a user-interaction with the control interface.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the control interface associates respective regions of the

image with respective commands for control of the controllable equipment upon the user-interaction

with the respective region.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the control interface comprises a touch screen.

4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the control interface comprises a computer mouse.

5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the control interface comprises controls for controlling

the camera.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the equipment is controllable via the server.

7.   The system of claim 2, wherein the apparatus comprises software for configuring the

associating of the respective regions with the respective commands.

8.   A method for enabling a user to remotely control equipment, the method comprising:

capturing an image of the equipment via a camera coupled to a server;

retrieving the image from the server via a data network;

displaying the image on a display monitor; and

5   enabling the user to interact with a control interface that associates the image with a command

for control of the equipment upon a user-interaction with the control interface.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

enabling the user to control a plurality of controllable entities of the equipment;

associating a respective region of the image with a respective command for control of a

10   respective one of the plurality of controllable entities; and

enabling the user to interact with the respective region for effecting the control of the respective

one of the plurality of controllable entities.

10.   A remote control system for remotely controlling equipment, the device comprising:

a camera for capturing an image of the equipment;

15   a data input for receiving, via a network, data representing the image of the equipment;

a display monitor for display of the image; and

a control interface for associating the image with a command for control of the equipment upon a

user-interaction with the control interface.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the network is the Internet.

20   12.   The system of claim 10, wherein a Personal Digital Assistant having a wireless modem

includes the data input, display monitor, and control interface for wirelessly communicating with a

server via the network.

13.   The system of claim 12, wherein a control network is coupled between the server and the equipment.

14.   The system of claim 10, further comprising software for associating a region of the image with a command for control of the equipment upon the user-interaction with the control interface.

5   15.   A remote control device for remotely controlling an apparatus, the device comprising:
        a control interface for associating a video image of the apparatus with a command for control of the apparatus via a control network upon a user-interaction with the control interface.

16.   The device of claim 15, wherein the video image of the apparatus is obtained by a video camera and transmitted to the control interface via network coupled to the control network.

10   17.   The device of claim 16, wherein the network is the Internet.

18.   The device of claim 1, wherein the control interface comprises a touch screen.

19.   The device of claim 15, wherein the control interface comprises a computer mouse.

20.   The device of claim 15, wherein the control interface comprises controls for controlling the camera.